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Copan Archaeology and History

New Finds and New Research

Sourcebook for the 32nd Maya Meetings
February 25 - March 2, 2008

The Mesoamerica Center · Department of Art and Art History
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

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Copan Archaeology and History New Finds and New Research

Sourcebook for the 2008 Maya Meetings
at the University of Texas at Austin

Assorted Materials to Accompany Lectures and Discussions

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Preface and Acknowledgments

The 2008 Sourcebook represents an important change from earlier years. It's noticeably shorter, and omits the lengthy section presenting an overview of Maya glyphs and grammar -- versions of which dated back to Linda Schele's first workshops in the 1970s. The simple reason for this is that the Maya Meetings themselves are changing and reflecting new trends in the study and presentation of Maya archaeology and history. No longer are the Austin gatherings only for "glyphers," where inscriptions are read glyph-by-glyph and new decipherments presented. While some of our four-day workshops will always involve those exciting activities, the UT Maya Meetings now encompass a wider array of interests, approaches and perspectives that reflect the maturation of Maya archaeology and research world-wide. And the welcome participation of Maya friends from Mexico and Guatemala bring the conference very much into the world of today, broadening our perspectives even further, without question for the better. So, our Sourcebook now reflects a more general use and appeal, and includes an assortment of maps, charts, and information that might prove useful for all attendees during many of the workshops and lectures.

Several people helped with this Sourcebook and deserve deep thanks. Barbara Fash and William Fash helped with the planning and design of our Copan symposium, and some of the materials included here show the results of our long and fruitful collaboration. Several of the architectural sections and views, all previously published, are from excavations and studies conducted by many archaeologists, including Ricardo Agurcia, William Fash, Rudy Larios, Joel Palka, Jorge Ramos, Robert Sharer, David Sedat, Loa Traxler, and Richard Williamson. I would especially like to acknowledge Barbara Fash's key role in the reconstruction of the Temple 26 "Temple Inscription," the drawing of which is presented here for the first time. Karl Taube also had numerous good insights in that process, begun years ago now. Barbara and I worked closely on the reconstruction of the original monument for the Museo de Escultura at Copan, with great results. In addition, our work on the reconstruction and recording of the same temple's Hieroglyphic Stairway is moving forward at full steam, benefitting in the last several years from close collaborations with Stephen Houston and Simon Martin. The exciting results of this work we will present at this year's meeting, following up on earlier conferences at Harvard University in 2006 and at Copan in 2007.

I would like to thank Caitlin Earley for her great help in cleaning up my poor typing and layouts -- whatever mistakes are still found here are mine. Lucia Henderson provided the beautiful drawing of the "Margarita birds" on the cover, and Carolyn Porter and Amanda Gorence helped in many ways in its production. Thanks to all.

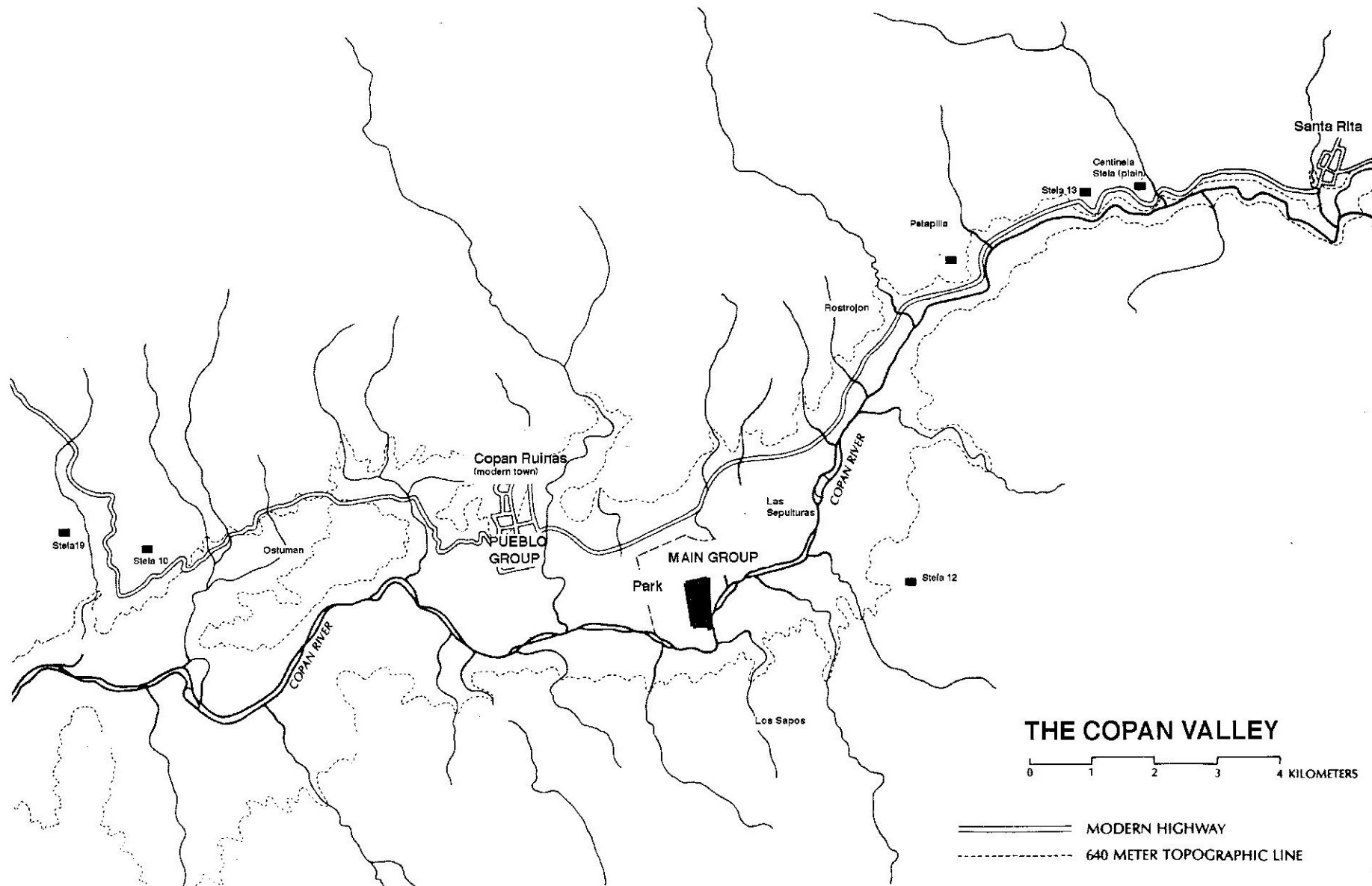
David Stuart
February, 2008

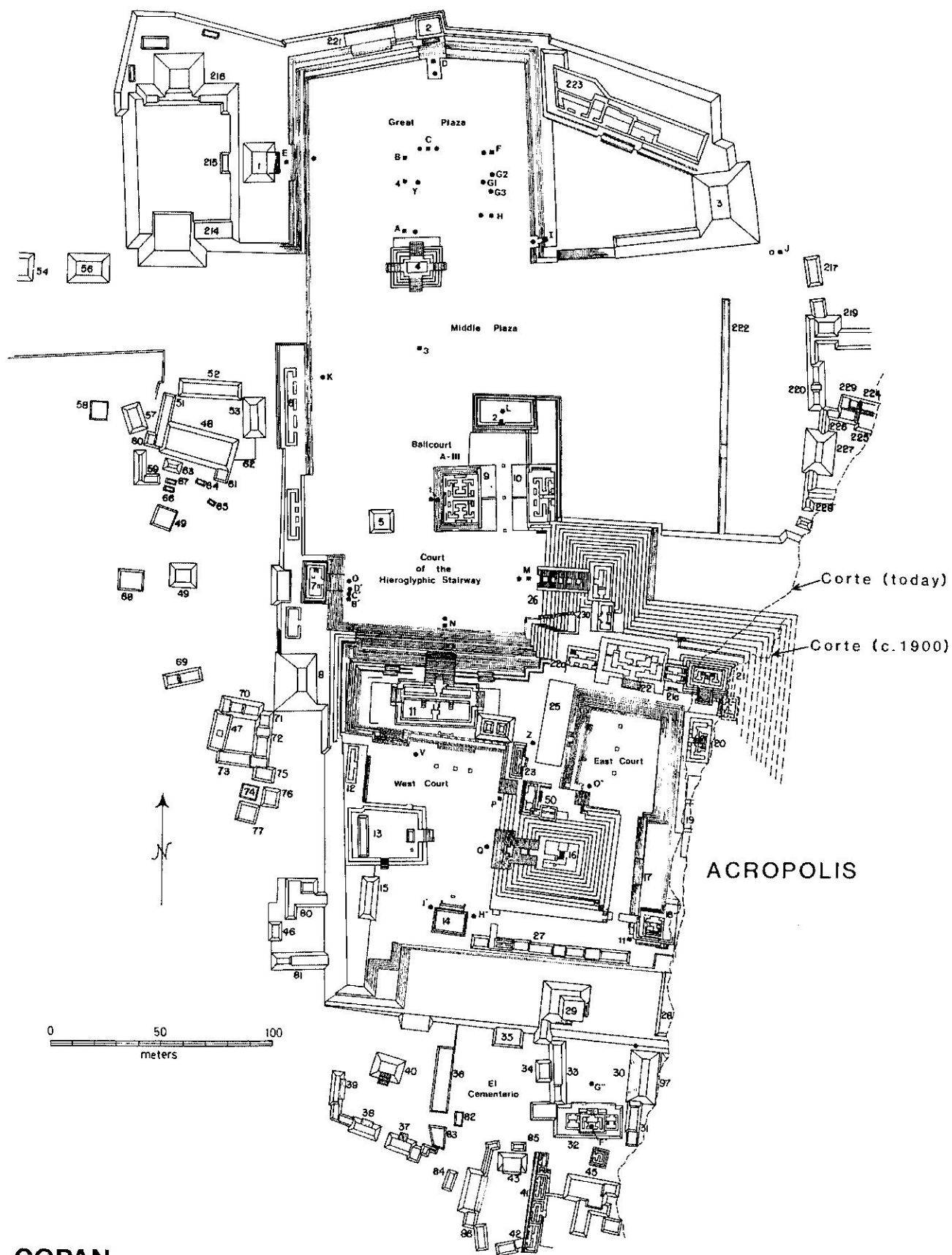
Silvanus Morton

Gustav Strombeck

Gordon Randolph Wilby — Meritido Bill in 1940
Exemplary de estructura 9N-82
Edificio muy importante como teatro, la casa?

David Stuard



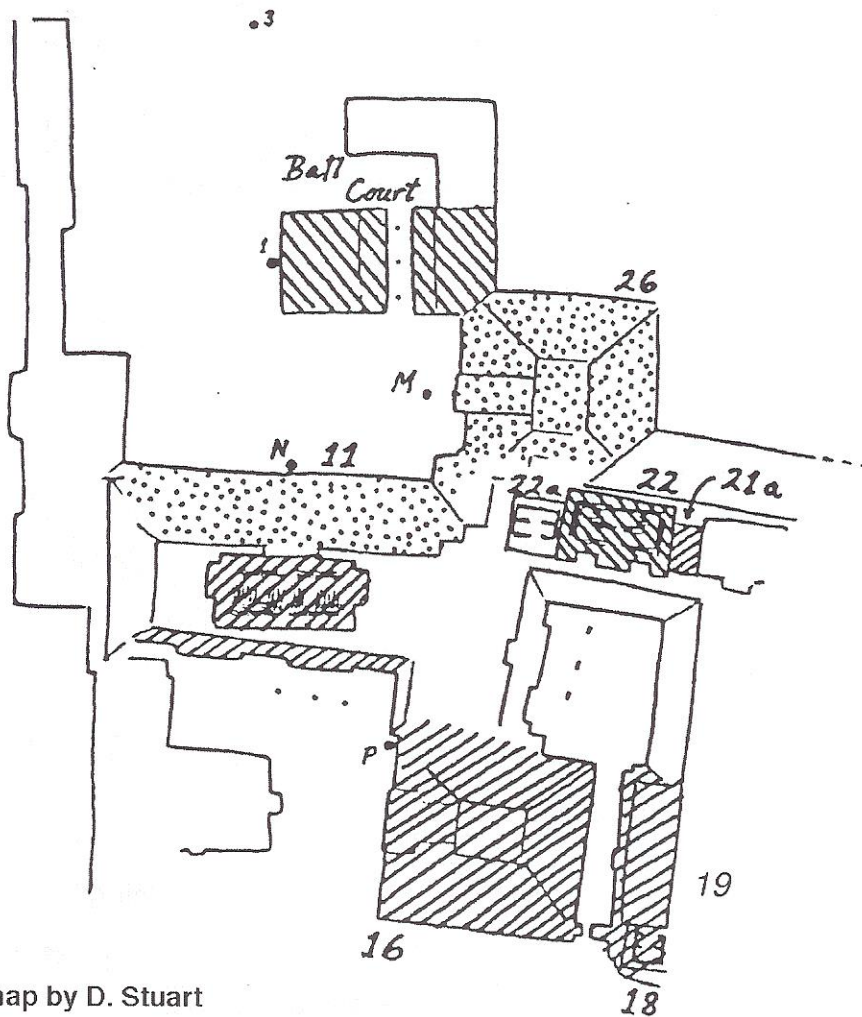
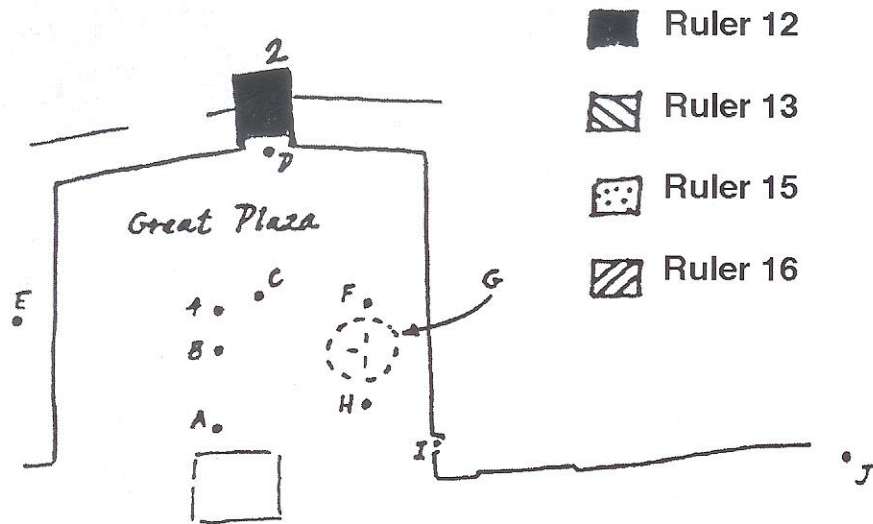


COPAN
Map of the Main Group

Copan's Ceramic Chronology

<u>Phase Name</u>	<u>Approximate Dates</u>	<u>Era</u>
UIR	850 - 650 B.C.	Middle Formative
BOSQUE	650 - 350 B.C.	
CHABIJ	400 B.C. - 100 A.D.	Late Formative
BIJAC	100 A.D. - 400 A.D.	Proto-Classic / Early Classic
ACBI	400 A.D. - 600 A.D.	Early Classic (Rulers 1 - 9)
CUEVA	600 A.D. - 700 A.D.	Late Classic (Rulers 10 - 12)
CONER	700 A.D. - 900 A.D.	Late Classic (Ruler 12 - 16)
EJAR	900 - 1000 A.D.	Terminal Classic (Post-dynastic)

Principal Structure Attributions in the Main Group



Sketch map by D. Stuart

Summary Facts on Copan's Rulers

Prepared by David Stuart

The following pages present summary data on each of Copan's sixteen known kings. On each page you will find some basic historical information on each individual, if known, including their associated dates and illustrations of the major forms of their hieroglyphic names. The information presented here is slightly different from earlier published summaries and, as always, some information remains tentative, especially concerning the first nine or so rulers.

Drawings by: David Stuart, Linda Schele, Barbara Fash, Nikolai Grube, Lucia Henderson, Mark Van Stone

Ruler 1

K'inich Yax K'uk' Mo'
Solar-New-Quetzal-Macaw
(a.k.a. Yax Macaw, Quetzal Macaw, Yax Kuk Mo)

Ruled ca. 426 - 435 A.D.(?)

The founder of the Copan dynasty was in many ways the culture hero of Classic Copan. He is continuously cited and celebrated in the written histories of the kingdom up until the very end of the Classic period, and one can make a reasonable case that the acropolis, built over a 400 year span, basically represents an expanded ancestral shrine with his temple at its center and apex.

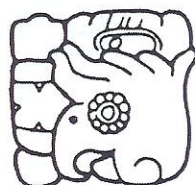
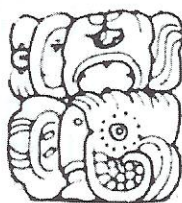
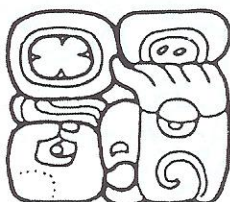
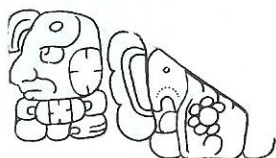
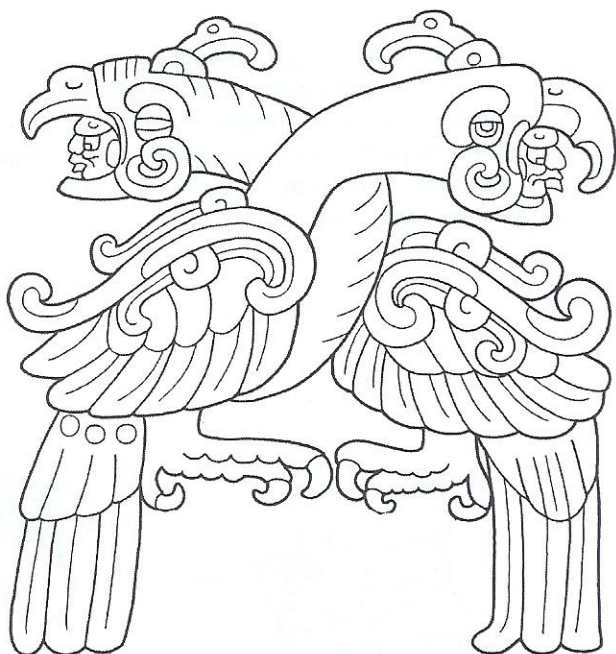
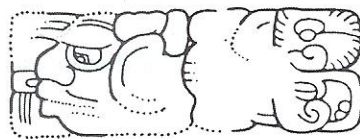
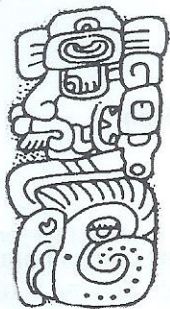
His probable tomb, discovered by the University of Pennsylvania project within the Hunal structure, was the structural and conceptual heart of the acropolis, modified and expanded over the centuries into a series of ever-larger temple-shrines. These included the later architectural phases known as Margarita, Purpura, as well as the final phase of Temple 16, with its remarkable Teotihuacan-style symbolism. Over the course of nearly four centuries, the founder's resting place served as the ritual center of the dynastic cult, complemented by the slightly different foci of the other large temples of the main group.

The archaeological and historical records suggest that KYKM had important ties outside of Copan. According to Altar Q -- his principal memorial from the Late Classic -- he "arrives" in Copan in the year 426, some months after "taking the K'awiil" (an emblem of rulership) in a distant locale called *Wite'naah*, "the Origin House." His ties to central Mexico and its symbolism are strongly emphasized in his later portraits, but there is little doubt he was ethnically Maya. Strontium analysis of his bones in the Hunal tomb have point to his early life being spent in the central lowlands. Recent re-analysis of Copan's Stela 63 strongly indicates that KYKM came from a place called *Uxwitzal* (Three Hill Water), an ancient name of Caracol. At present I'm inclined to believe he was a Caracol lord who, for some reason, came to Copan to establish a new political order in the valley. His arrival and foundation at Copan was in all likelihood timed to take place shortly before the turn of the Bak'tun ending at 9.0.0.0.0., by which time his son, Ruler 2, was established as the reigning king or co-ruler.

<u>Date</u>		<u>Event</u>
8.19.0.0.0	10 Ajaw 13 K'ayab	K'atun ending
8.19.10.10.17	5 Kaban 15 Yaxk'in	"takes k'awiil," accession
8.19.10.11.0	8 Ajaw 18 Yaxk'in	comes from <i>Wite'naah</i>
8.19.11.0.13	5 Ben 11 Muwaan	arrives at <i>Uxwitzik</i> (Copan)
9.0.0.0.0	8 Ajaw 13 Keh	Bak'tun ending

Ha i pas
 revaloriza
 0110 por la
 des kab = revaloriza
 Vozpud no spud a Copan

Wiktana — la casa de origen
 Termina su viaje a Copan — 159 ?



Oxwiltal, Chaym — título por reyes y jefes
 de la montaña de agua
 Nombre antiguo de Caracol

Ruler 2

K'inich-?

Solar-?

(a.k.a.: Mat Head, Popol Hol, K'inich Popol Hol)

Ruled ca. 435 A.D.

A key early figure, and son of K'inich Yax K'uk' Mo'. His only known portrait comes from the so-called Motmot marker. Historical texts there and on Stelae 28, 50 and 63 indicate he was in office, or perhaps co-ruler with his father, at the key Bak'tun ending on 9.0.0.0.0 8 Ajaw 13 Keh. He is also featured on the so-called Xukpi stone, a re-used hieroglyphic step of slightly later date, discovered in the Margarita structure, above the Hunal tomb.

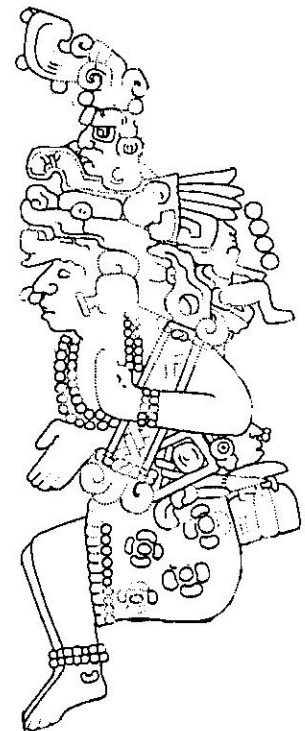
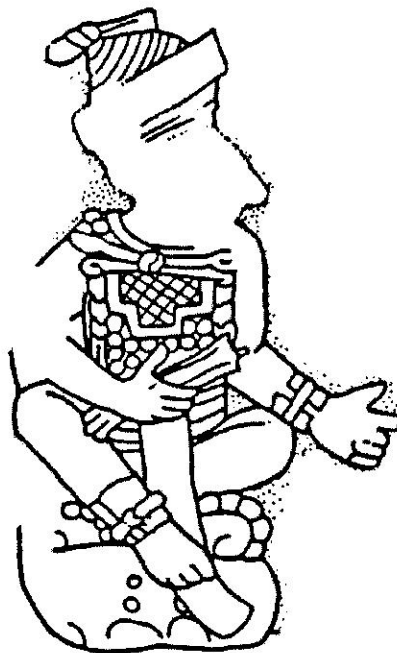
His name glyph is not easy to decipher. An earlier proposal of "Popol Hol" or "K'inich Popol Hol" is incorrect (a Mayan translation of an English nickname, "Mat Head"). The **K'INICH** head is visible in the well-preserved examples, topped by an unusual S-shaped scroll exhibiting inner dots and woven strands. This is probably part of a different head sign, conflated in most examples with **K'INICH**. The full original form of this other head may be visible in the ruler's headdress depicted on the Motmot marker, where it resembles the storm deity Chahk.

Date

9.0.0.0.0 8 Ajaw 13 Keh
9.0.2.0.0 13 Ajaw 3 Keh(?)

Event

PE
PE?



Ruler 3

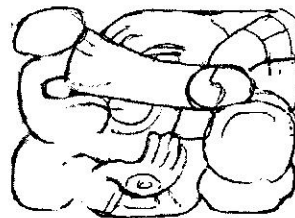
Ya-? Chan

? - Sky

Ruled ??

Ruler 3 remains poorly known. Aside from his portrait and name glyph on Altar Q, we only know of him from a mention on the hieroglyphic step beneath Structure 10L-11, where it appears in a string of early king names (Rulers 1-5). The name glyph consists of at least two parts, one of which is surely **CHAN**, "sky." No dates are associated with him.

Dates: None known



Ruler 4

K'al Tuun Hix

(a.k.a. Cu-Ix, K'abtuunhiix)

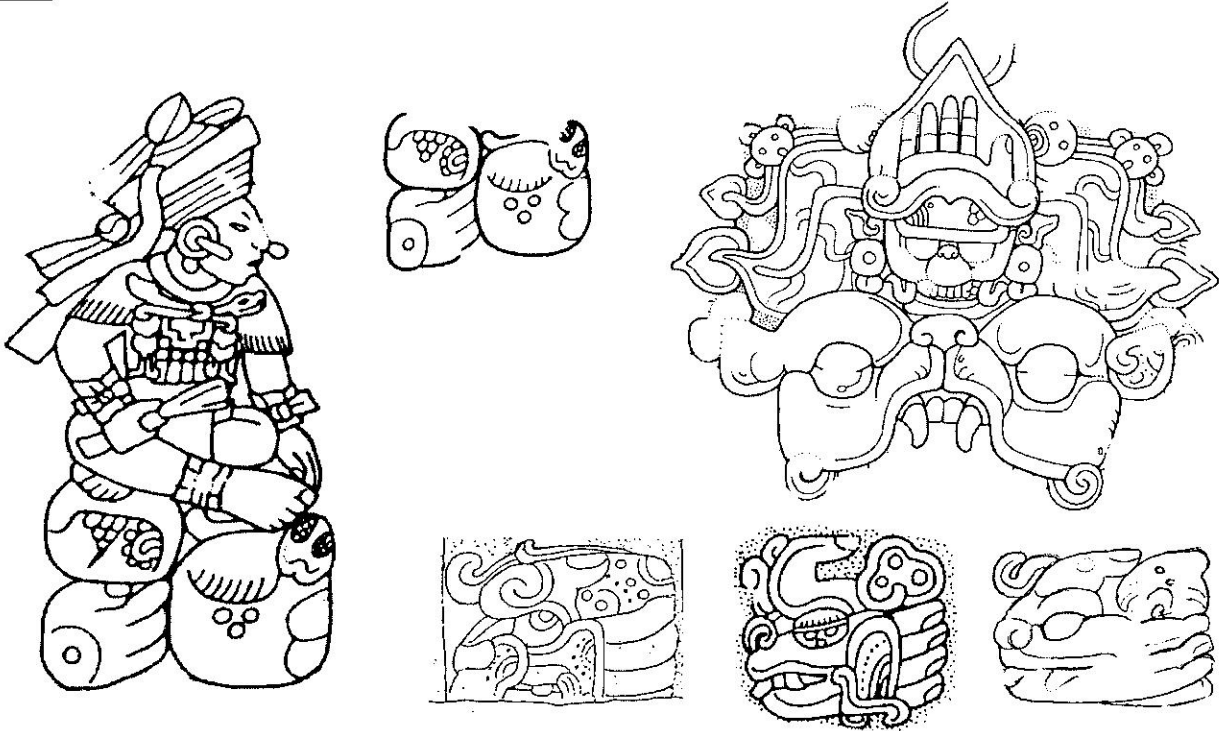
Ruled ??

K'ab Tuun Hix built the Early Classic "Papagayo" structure beneath what would become Structure 26. This ambitious temple-shrine commemorated the great Bak'tun ending of 9.0.0.0.0 8 Ajaw 13 Keh and its celebration by K'inich Yax K'uk' Mo' and Ruler 2, two generations or so earlier. Papagayo's construction sealed the earlier Motmot building and its marker stone, greatly expanding the architectural program of this place within the growing acropolis. No firm dates can be associated with K'al Tuun Hix, but he presumably reigned ca. 9.1.0.0.0 - 9.2.0.0.0. His name survives on a few fragments, as well as on the early step within Structure 10L-11.

Stela 2, a much later monument, shows Ruler 12 wearing an elaborate headdress in the form of K'al Tuun Hix's emblematic name. Evidently Ruler 12 saw fit to assume his ancestor's identity on the stela, overlooking the Ballcourt and facing in the general direction of the Papagayo shrine. This may be indirect evidence of Ruler 4's importance in an early refurbishment of the main Ballcourt. In any case, he seems to have been an important early king who did much to build upon the works of the founder.

The same K'al Tuun Hix name also was given to an important early ruler of the *Kan* kingdom (then in the Dzibanche region, later Calakmul). That king wielded considerable political power in the central lowlands, and while it might be tempting to connect the two names historically, Copan's Ruler 4 looks to have reigned a few decades earlier.

Dates: None known



Ruler 5

Yuh..? a?

? ?

Ruled ??

Another obscure king, Ruler 5 is known from only a mention on the Structure 10L-11 early step, from his Altar Q portrait, and from a fragmentary accession record on a reconstructed portion of the Hieroglyphic Stairway. Unfortunately the date with his inauguration is lost.

His name glyph on Altar Q features a *yu-* prefix before the **UH** skull conflated with a **TUUN** or **ku** sign. This is then followed by an *-a'* suffix. Without more examples for comparison, this combination remains difficult to decipher.

Dates: None known



Ruler 6

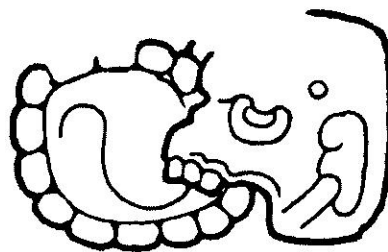
?-Jol

?-Head

Ruled in late fifth / early sixth century

Ruler 6 is mentioned in only three places at Copan: on Altar Q, on the early step of Structure 10L-11, and on Stela 49, an undated monument of a style probably contemporary with his reign. No known dates are known for Ruler 6, but he presumably ruled before 9.3.10.0.0, the first fairly well-established date for his successor, Bahlam Nehn.

Dates: None known



Ruler 7

Bahlam Nehn
Jaguar Mirror
(a.k.a. Waterlily Jaguar)

Ruled < 524 - 532 A.D

With Ruler 7 we begin to discern some detail about Copan's early history, perhaps because Bahlam Nehn was remembered by later rulers as an important king. He was the father of Ruler 9, and perhaps also of Ruler 8. The Period Ending 9.4.10.0.0, recorded on Stela 16, is his one secure date, although a curious reference to him on Stela E, in connection with 9.5.10.0.0, seems far too late given Ruler 8's earlier accession.

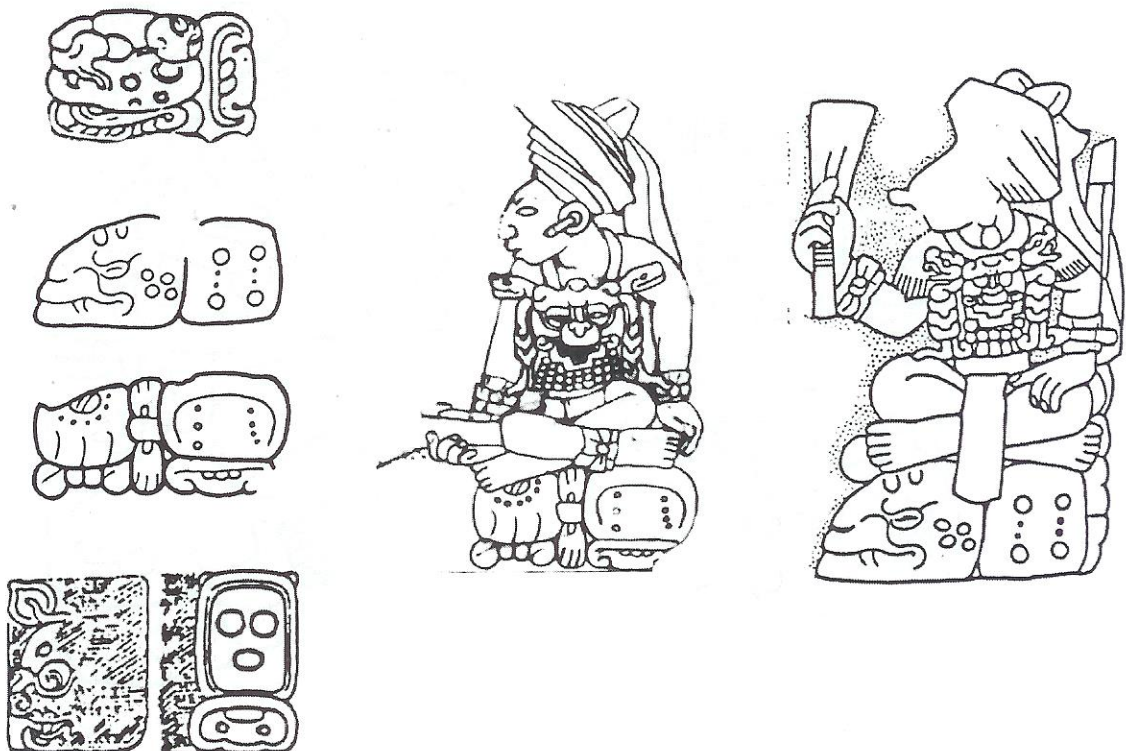
Bahlam Nehn probably was responsible for a good deal of the early expansion and development of Copan's acropolis, corresponding to the so-called Time Span 3 in the architectural sequence outlined by Robert Sharer and his colleagues. Although hard to confirm, it's possible that the striding jaguar sculptures flanking the central steps of the East Court may well be emblematic of Bahlam Nehn's name, meaning "Jaguar Mirror." The recessed spots of the jaguars were no doubt once inlaid with reflective obsidian discs.

Date

9.4.10.0.0 12 Ajaw 8 Mol

Event

PE



Ruler 8

Wi' Ohl K' inich
Lacking-Heart-Sun

Ruled 532-551 A.D.

Reigning for nearly twenty years in the early sixth century, Wi' Ohl K'inich is the first ruler for which we have fairly good inscribed dates, from the Hieroglyphic Stairway as well as the so-called Ante Step from underneath the East Court. His accession is recorded in both texts, and just possibly also in the very weathered inscription inscribed on a step on the west side of the Rosalila temple, beneath Temple 16. The accession date of his successor, Ruler 9, provides a good ending date for his rule, ca. 551.

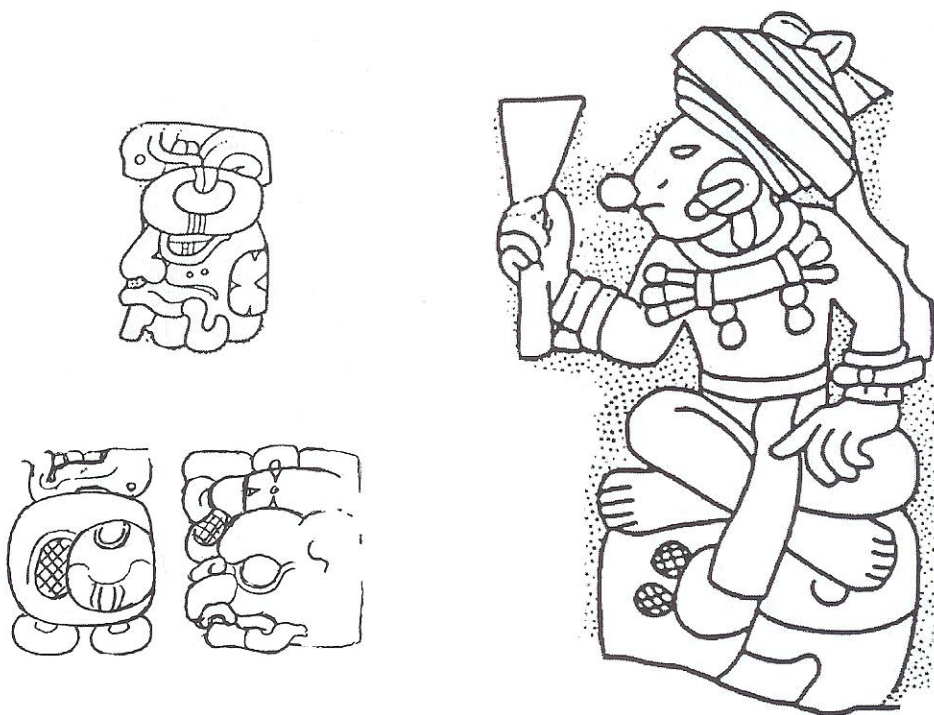
Wi' Ohl K'inich evidently oversaw a good deal of the amplification of the acropolis, including a massive program of building around below what is today the East Court. In addition to building the Ante platform, he can probably be identified as the occupant of the so-called Sub-Jaguar tomb, located just opposite Ante.

Date

9.4.18.4.12 8 Eb end of Yax
9.5.7.12.2 4 Ik' 5 Pax (?)

Event

accession
ded. of Ante platform



Ruler 9

Sak Lu?

White ?

Ruled 551-553 A.D.

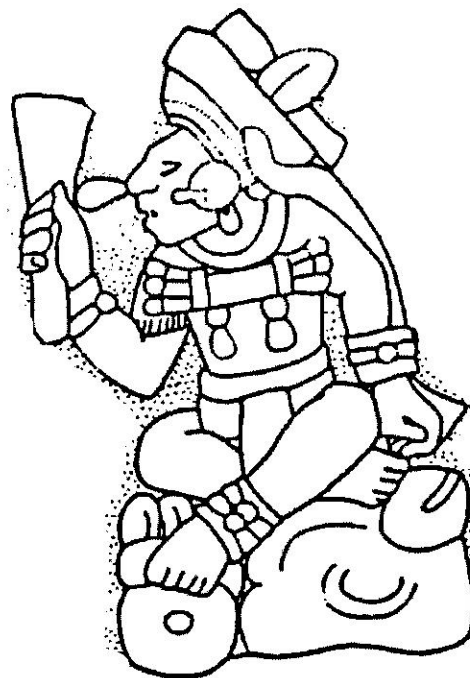
Ruler 9 is an obscure king given his relatively late placement in Copan's history, no doubt because his reign was very short, lasting less than two years. He may have been the elder son of Bahlam Nehn, his predecessor in office, and the older brother of the king who followed him, Ruler 10. Ruler 9's accession record comes from the Hieroglyphic Stairway. He did not oversee any Period Endings in his short time on the throne, which goes far to explain why we lack any records of him apart from the portrait and name glyph shown on the side of Altar Q.

Date

Event

9.5.17.13.7 2 Manik seating of Muwaan

accession



Ruler 10

? *Bahlam*
? Jaguar
(a.k.a. Moon Jaguar)

Ruled 553 - 578 A.D.

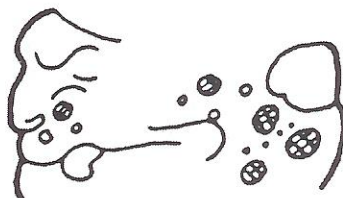
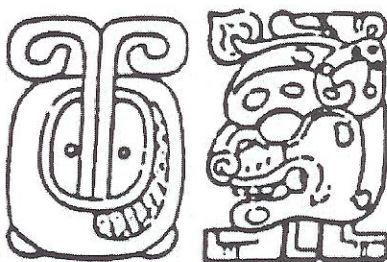
Ruler 10 ruled for 25 years in the late sixth century, after the extremely short reign of his predecessor. According to the inscription on Stela 9 -- the only monument we can firmly attribute to him -- Ruler 10 was the son of Bahlam Nehn (Ruler 7) who had probably died sometime just before 532. Ruler 10 is named on the Hieroglyphic Stairway, in the steps near the beginning of the lower in situ portion excavated by Gordon. There we have clear written dates for his accession and death.

Date

9.5.19.3.0 8 Ajaw 3 Mak
9.6.0.0.0 9 Ajaw 3 Wayeb
9.6.10.0.0 8 Ajaw 13 Pax
9.7.4.17.4 10 Kan 2 Keh

Event

accession
PE
PE
death



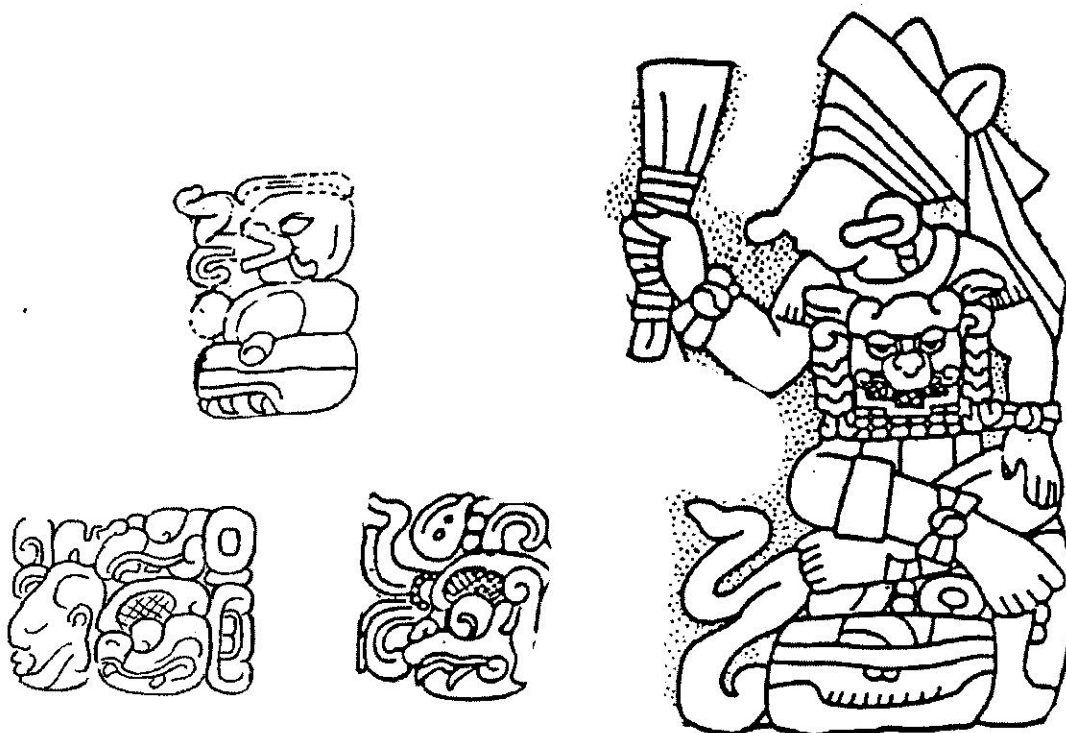
Ruler 11

K'ahk' Uti' Chan
Fiery-Bite-of-the-Snake
(a.k.a. Smoke Serpent, Butz' Chan)

Ruled 578 - 628 A.D.

Ruler 11's major monuments include Stela P in the acropolis and Stela 7 from modern Copan pueblo. Little is known of him, but he held office for nearly fifty years, and presumably had an important role in the formation of Copan's architecture and monuments just at the beginning of the Late Classic period. His two extant monuments record his celebration of two key Period Endings at the time.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
9.7.5.0.8 8 Lamat 6 Mak	accession
9.9.0.0.0 3 Ajaw 3 Zotz'	PE
9.9.10.0.0 2 Ajaw 13 Pop	PE
9.9.14.16.9 2 Muluk 2 K'ayab	death



Ruler 12

K'ahk'Uti' Witz'K'awiil
Fiery-Bite-of-the-Water spirit-K'awiil
(a.k.a. Smoke-Jaguar, Smoke-Imix, Smoke-Imix-God K)

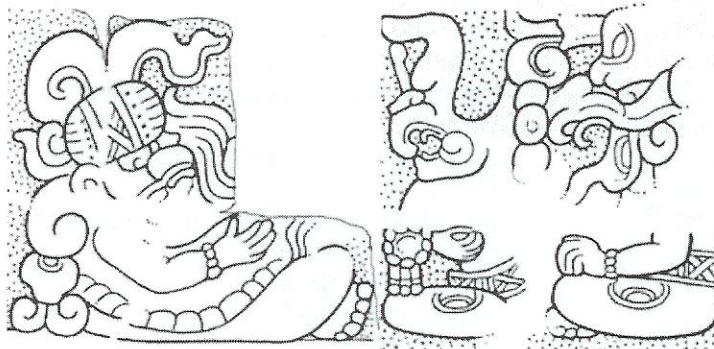
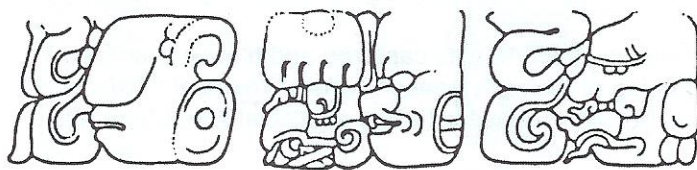
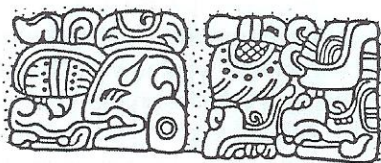
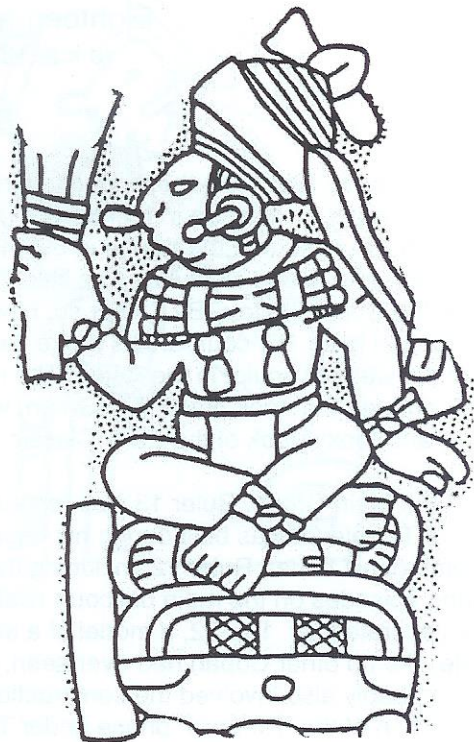
Ruled 628 - 695 A.D.

The first great king of Copan's Late Classic period, Ruler 12 left a profound mark on the design and layout of the city. His life and his reign were long, so remarkable in fact that on Altar Q he is depicted sitting on a glyph for "Five K'atuns" (>80 years) instead of his personal name. Only K'inich Yax K'uk' Mo' was singled out in a similar way with his "king" glyph.

The first two decades of Ruler 12's reign remain a mystery, but the months leading up to the Period Ending 9.11.0.0.0, in 652 A.D., saw an ambitious new program of monument carving, with at least five stelae erected at key points of access in and just beyond the Copan Valley. This "landscaping" of the kingdom also involved the erection of several monuments in the Great Plaza, the general plan of which may have been established around this same time. Further afield, his name appears on an altar at Quirigua, suggesting his territory extended as far as the Motagua Valley. The historical pattern of his reign -- several quiet years after this enthronement, followed by an explosion of activity around 9.11.0.0.0 and a long reign thereafter -- is remarkably similar to his contemporary peer, K'inich Janahb Pakal of Palenque.

Ruler 12 died in 695 and was buried in the large tomb beneath Structure 10L-26 -- the so-called "Scribe's Tomb." A large temple-pyramid known as "Esmeralda" was built above the crypt by his accomplished son, Ruler 13. The stunning Hieroglyphic Stairway on its west face was then dedicated in Ruler 12's honor in 710, a remarkable testament to his important legacy in Copan's Late Classic history.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
9.9.14.17.5 6 Chikchan 18 K'ayab	accession
9.10.18.12.8 8 Lamat 1 Yaxk'in	dedication of St. 23
9.10.19.5.10 9 Ok 3 Kumk'u	dedication of St. 3
9.10.19.13.0 3 Ajaw 8 Yaxk'in	dedication of St. 10
9.10.19.15.0 4 Ajaw 8 Ch'en	dedication of St. 19
9.11.0.0.0 12 Ajaw 8 Keh	PE
9.11.15.0.0 4 Ajaw 13 Mol	PE
9.12.0.0.0 10 Ajaw 8 Yaxk'in	PE
9.12.3.13.11 9 Chuwen 19 Pop	dedication of altar of St. I
9.12.3.14.0 5 Ajaw 8 Woh	dedication of St. I
9.12.5.0.0 3 Ajaw 3 Xul	PE
9.12.8.3.10 9 Ok 18 Mol	dedication of Alt. H'
9.12.10.0.0 9 Ajaw 18 Sotz'	PE
9.12.15.0.0 2 Ajaw 13 Zip	PE
9.12.16.7.8 3 Lamat 16 Yax	dedication of Alt. K
9.13.0.0.0 8 Ajaw 8 Woh	PE
9.13.3.5.7 12 Manik seating of Yaxk'in	death



Ruler 13

Waxaklajuun Ubaah K'awiil
Eighteen-are-the-Personas-of-K'awiil
(a.k.a. 18 Rabbit, 18 Rabbit-God K)

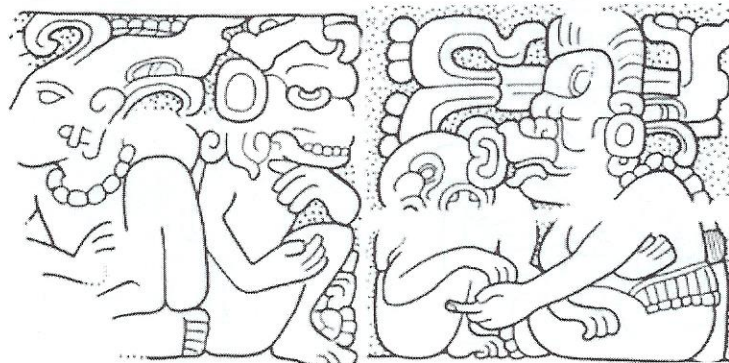
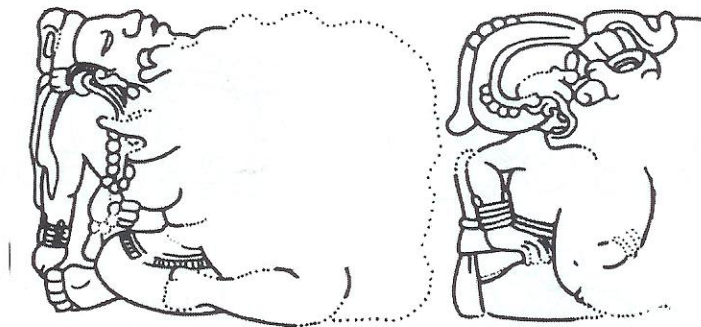
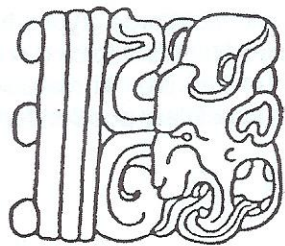
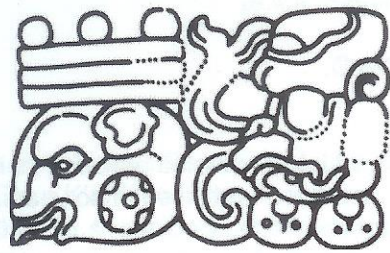
Ruled 695 - 738 A.D.

Ruler 13's father had been the longest reigning king in Copan's history, and it seems to have taken a number of years for the son to feel secure in building upon his predecessor's legacy and leaving a mark of his own. He assumed the throne in 695, fourteen days after his father's death. Stela J was his first monument, and in overall style it was little different from the all-glyphic monuments his father had erected around the Copan Valley. By 710 or so, however, Ruler 13 begins a run of artistic innovations like no other Copan ruler. His court artists broke the mold on the design of stelae and architectural facades, perfecting ways to sculpt in the round. The monuments of the Great Plaza show the progression of the artistic change that took place in his reign, when conventions of monumental sculpture moved away from the flat and "boxy" look of the Early Classic, into the style Copan is so famous for.

Within the Main Group, Ruler 13 was responsible for a remarkable amount of architectural elaboration. Much of Temple 26 was built during his reign -- the construction phase we know as "Esmeralda" -- over the tomb of his father, Ruler 12, including the Hieroglyphic Stairway's initial phase. He oversaw two major building episodes on the main ballcourt (Ballcourt III a and b), and also commissioned the famous and richly decorated Str. 10L-22, a model of a sacred maize mountain with an interior cave-shrine. This last temple, like no other Copan had ever seen, was part of his ambitious refurbishment of the East Court, and it probably also involved the construction of "jaguar steps" on its west side, as well as the construction of the "Purpura" phase under Temple 16, covering over the long-standing Rosalila temple. There's some evidence he also had a hand in the constructions under Temple 11, still awaiting excavation. Adding most of the stelae of the main plaza into the mix, we can justly say that Copan's main center assumed much of its final form late in the reign of Waxaklajuun Ubaah K'awiil, by about 720-730.

According to Stela F at Quirigua, Ruler 13 was captured and ritually sacrificed in 738. The ceremonial death occurred at the beginning of the rainy season (when "Yaxha'al Chahk was born," according to the Hieroglyphic Stairway), and possibly reenacted a key sacrificial event from Maya creation mythology.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
9.13.3.6.8 7 Lamat 1 Mol	accession
9.13.10.0.0 7 Ajaw 3 Kumk'u	PE (St. J)
9.13.14.0.1 5 Imix 4 Zotz'	Structure 10L-26-2nd? (Esmeralda)
9.13.16.6.8 7 Lamat 16 Zotz'	13 tuun anniversary
9.13.18.17.9 12 Muluk 7 Muwaan	Hieroglyphic Stairway, initial phase
9.14.0.0.0 6 Ajaw 13 Muwaan	PE (St. C)
9.14.3.6.8 5 Lamat 1 Zip	anniversary; dedication of Str. 10L-22
9.14.10.0.0 5 Ajaw 3 Mak	PE (St. F)
9.14.15.0.0 11 Ajaw 8 Zak	PE (St. 4); dedication of early phase of Str. 10L-11(?)
9.14.19.5.0 4 Ajaw 18 Muwaan	dedication of St. H
9.14.19.8.0 12 Ajaw 18 Kumku	dedication of St. A
9.15.0.0.0 4 Ajaw 13 Yax	PE (St. B; Alt. S)
9.15.5.0.0 10 Ajaw 8 Ch'en	PE (St. D)
9.15.6.8.13 10 Ben 16 K'ayab	Ballcourt III dedication (final phase)
9.15.6.14.6 6 Kimi 14 Tzek	Quirigua war; sacrifice
9.15.6.14.8 8 Lamat 16 Tzek	dedication of Str. 8L-74



Ruler 14

K'ahk' Joplaj Chan K'awiil
 Fiery-?-Sky-K'awiil
 (Smoke Monkey)

Ruled 738 - 749 A.D.

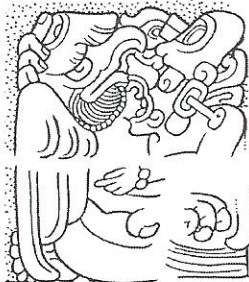
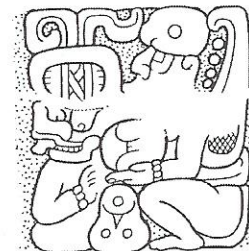
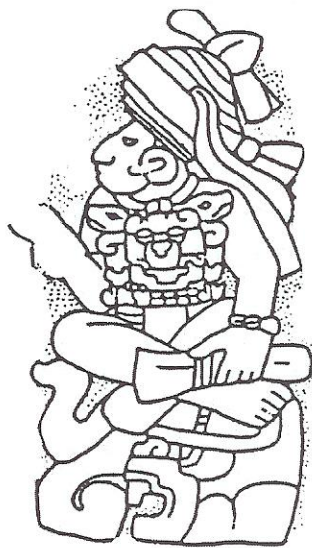
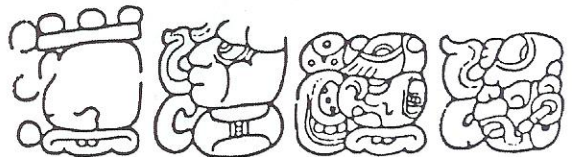
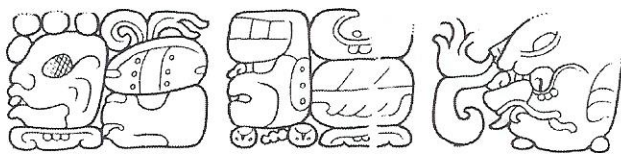
With the death of Waaxaklajuun Ubaah K'awiil, Copan entered into a troubled period of its history. Ruler 14 took the throne 41 days after his predecessor's demise and ruled for eleven or so years, but in this time he did not apparently erect any stelae to mark the important Period Endings 9.15.10.0.0 or 9.15.15.0.0. In fact, the only historical records mentioning him come from after his reign, in the inscriptions of Ruler 15's time. K'ahk' Joplaj Chan K'awiil appears in the text of Stela N as well as in the post-Quirigua narrative of the Hieroglyphic Stairway. One possible monument we can attribute to him is Structure 22-A, the so-called "Mat House" built adjacent to Temple 22. Large glyphs from its facade might be read as "9 Ajaw House," referencing not only the nine underworld lords depicted on the temple's exterior, but also the Period Ending falling on 9 Ajaw 18 Xul, or 9.15.15.0.0. The absence of stela dedications in Ruler 14's reign probably points to the kingdom's subsidiary position to Quirigua, lasting a decade or more after the defeat.

Dates

9.15.6.16.5 6 Chikchan 3 Yaxk'in
 9.15.15.0.0 9 Ajaw 18 Xul
 9.15.17.12.16 10 Kib 4 Wayeb

Event

accession
 dedication of Str. 10L-22A(??)
 death



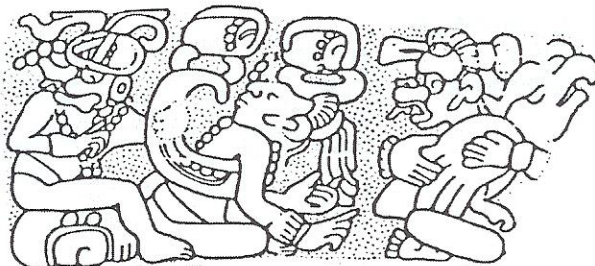
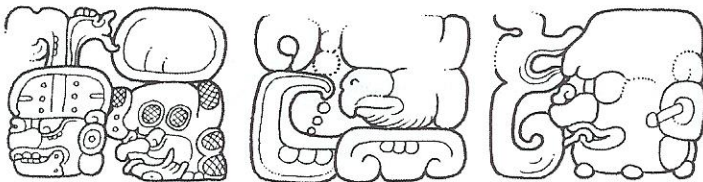
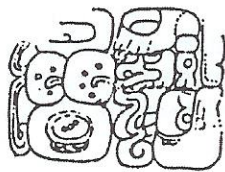
Ruler 15

K'ahk' Yipyaj Chan K'awiil
 Fiery-Strengthened(?)-Sky-K'awiil
 (a.k.a. Smoke Shell, Smoke Squirrel)

Ruled 749 - 763 A.D.

The difficult years following Copan's defeat by Quirigua seem to have subsided by the mid 700s, when K'ahk' Yipyaj Chan K'awiil took the throne and eventually began a resurgence in Copan's political and religious prominence. He reigned for fourteen years or so, but in this time he was very active in overseeing a major refurbishment of Ruler 12's funerary monument, Temple 26, which included a re-setting and expansion of its remarkable Hieroglyphic Stairway. In doing so he updated the royal history to include mention of the Quirigua defeat and the death of Waxaklajuun Ubaah K'awiil. In addition, Ruler 15 went on to dedicate two monuments in the plaza in front of Temples 26 and 11 (Stelae M and N), and possibly also some architectural modification on Temple 11 itself. His name is recorded prominently in the long inscription of Temple 11's jambs, and some circumstantial evidence suggests he was buried within that great temple, below the superstructure built soon after his death in 763.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
9.15.17.13.10 11 Ok 13 Pop	accession
9.16.0.0.0 2 Ajaw 13 Zip	PE
9.16.4.1.0 6 Ajaw 13 Tzek	dedication of Str. 10L-26 HS
9.16.5.0.0 8 Ajaw 8 Sotz'	PE (St. M; ded. rite in Str. 10L-26 final phase)
9.16.10.0.0 1 Ajaw 3 Zip	PE (St. N)



Ruler 16

Yax Pahsaj Chan Yopaat Newly-Dawned-Sky-Yopaat

(a.k.a. New-Sun-at-Horizon, Madrugada, Yax Pac, Yax Pas, etc.)

Ruled 763 - ca. 810 A.D.

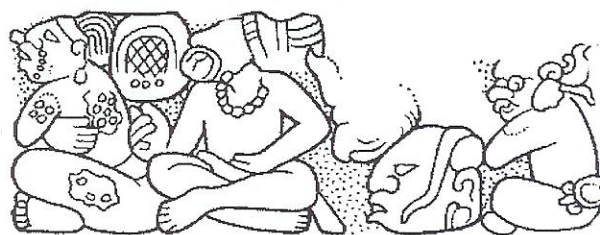
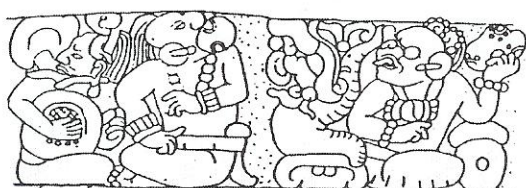
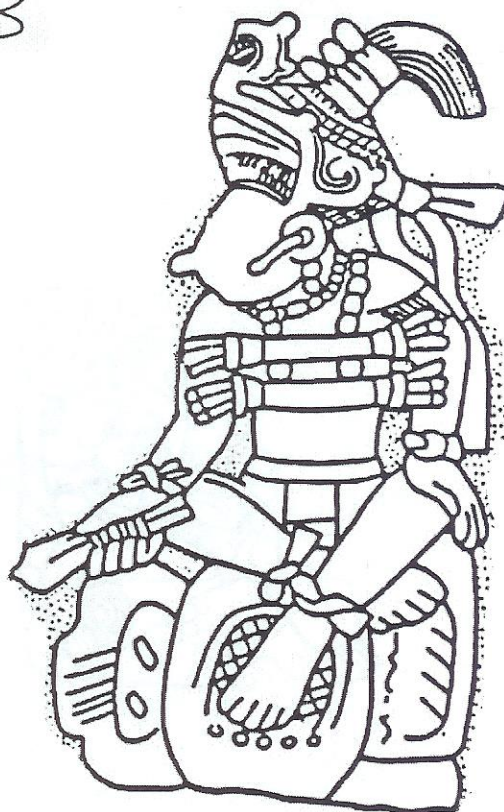
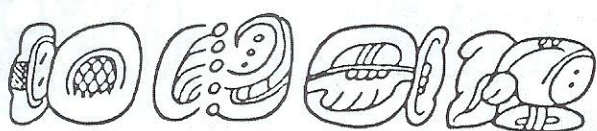
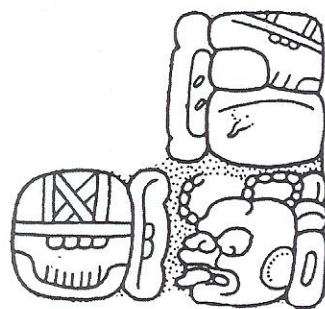
Yax Pahsaj Chan Yopaat is the last great king of Copan. By the end of his reign in the early ninth century, for reasons still debated, the Copan throne and its royal court collapsed, or at least were quickly on their way to a complete end.

Ruler 16 appeared on the scene in 763, and in many ways his early reign reflected some important breaks from Copan's traditional art and architecture. In the 40+ years of rule, Ruler 16 never dedicated a major Period Ending stela, preferring instead to mark the calendar stations with small altars or other sculptures. He did, however, oversee the construction of new temples atop Structures 11 and 16 -- both within a few short years of each other -- as well as the beautiful Temple 18, much later in his reign.

Many aspects of Copan's internal political structure under Ruler 16 are still poorly understood. Major elite compounds -- what were in effect "satellite courts" -- continued to be dedicated in the valley by subordinates lords bearing the title *ajkiuhun*, the best known being the large complex of buildings near the "House of the Bacabs" at Las Sepulturas. Other historical and mythological names appear in inscriptions of his reign, but their exact roles in the religious and political life of the city are uncertain. Finally, Yax Pahsaj Chan Yopaat's very last mention comes not from Copan, but from Quirigua, where he seems to jointly celebrate the 9.19.0.0.0 K'atun ending with the Quirigua king. This could point to close family ties with Copan's rival in the Motagua Valley, and even to Ruler 16's original appearance as an outsider. Even his name glyph, with the Chan Yopaat element, seems more closely associated with Quirigua than Copan.

Research on the name glyph of Ruler 16 has a complicated history, reflecting in many ways the complex and varied nature of his name glyphs. Several different nicknames were used for him in the scholarly literature, even before any attempt was made at a phonetic decipherment. Today we can confidently reconstruct the name as *Yax Pahsaj Chan Yopaat*.

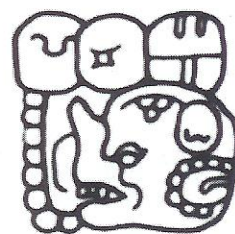
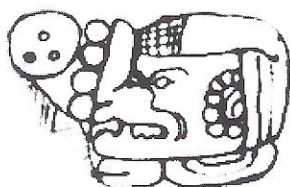
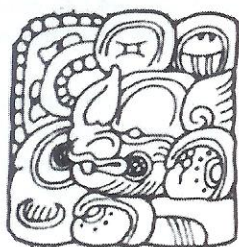
<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>
9.16.12.5.17 6 Kaban 10 Mol	accession
9.17.0.0.0 13 Ajaw 18 Kumk'u	PE
9.17.2.2.16 1 Kib 19 Keh	ded. of Temple 11 upper temple
9.17.5.0.0 6 Ajaw 13 K'ayab	PE
9.17.10.0.0 12 Ajaw 8 Pax	PE
9.17.12.5.17 4 Kaban 10 Zip	k'atun anniversary
9.18.0.0.0 11 Ajaw 18 Mak	PE
9.18.5.0.0 4 Ajaw 13 Keh	PE
9.18.10.0.0 10 Ajaw 8 Zak	PE
9.18.10.17.18 4 Etz'nab 1 Zak	Ded. of Temple 18
9.18.15.0.0 3 Ajaw 3 Yax	PE
9.19.0.0.0 9 Ajaw 18 Mol	PE (at Quirigua)



Copan Str. 9N-82 Bench

Copan Altar Corte

The Copan Emblem Title

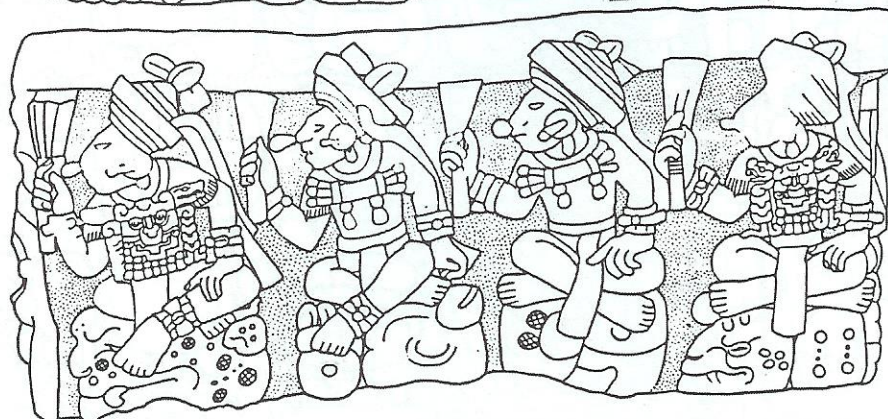




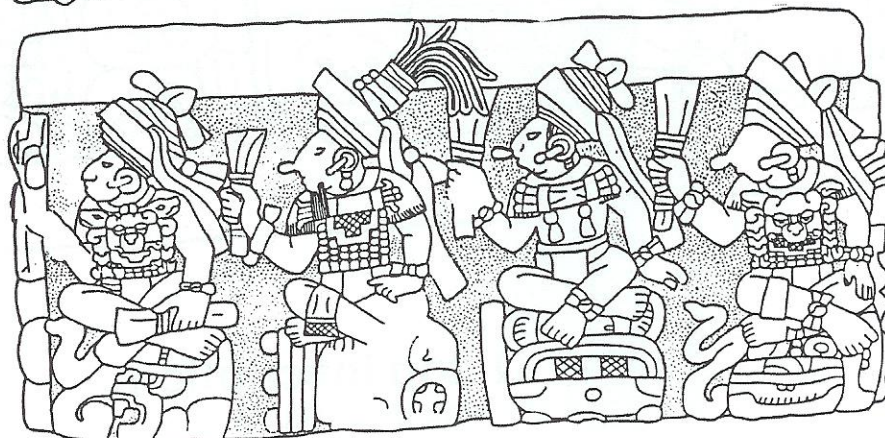
West



North

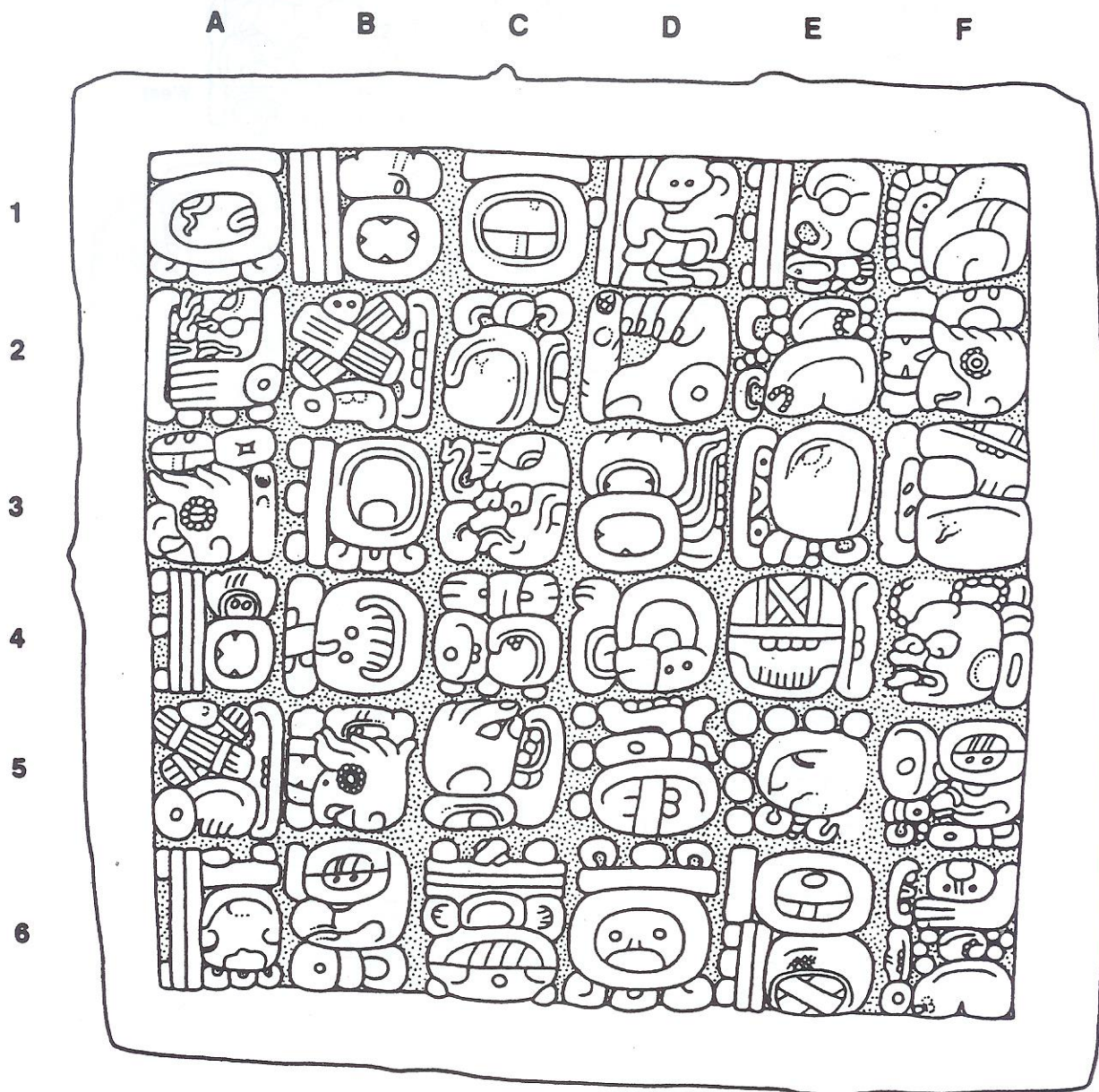


East

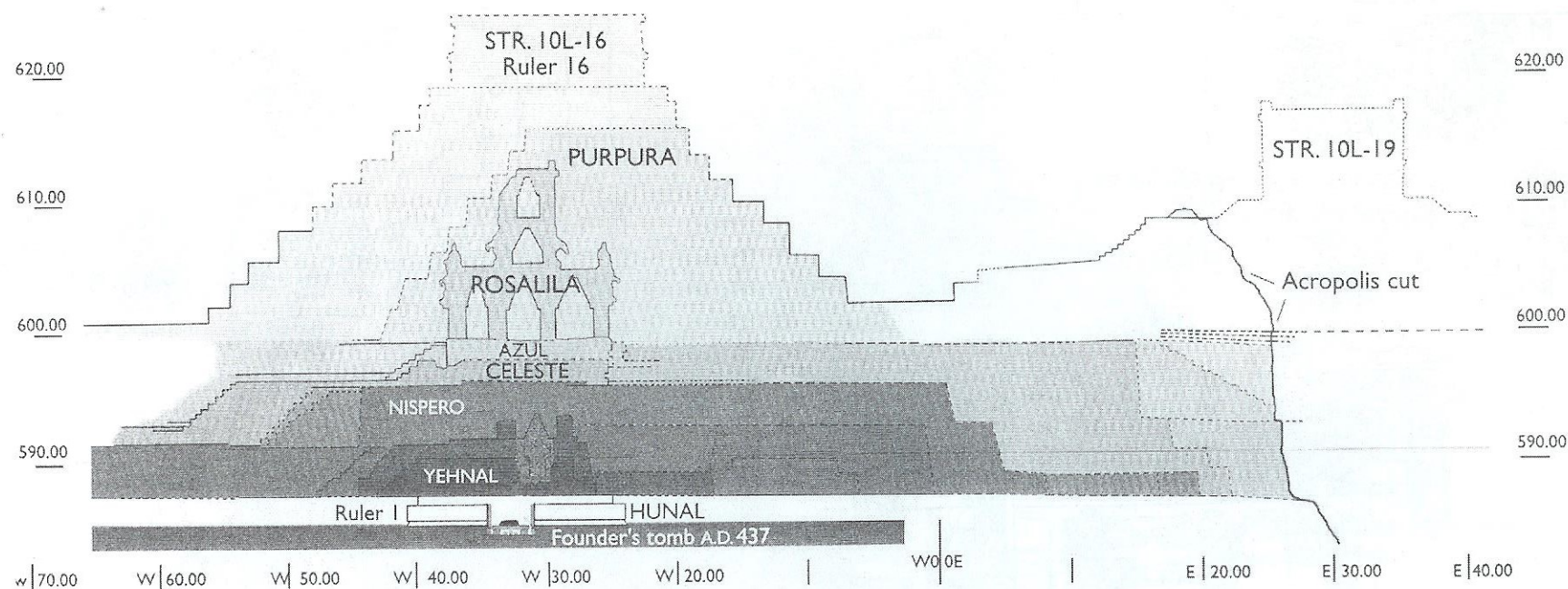


South

Altar Q, sides
Drawing by L. Schele

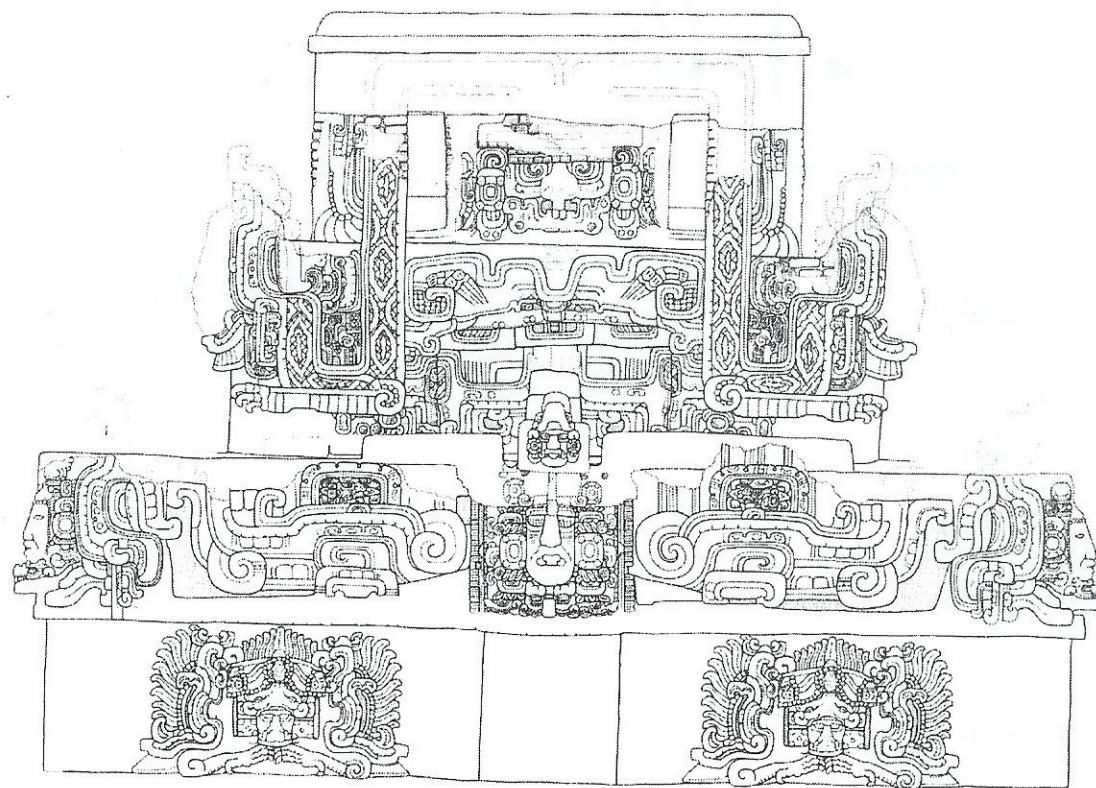
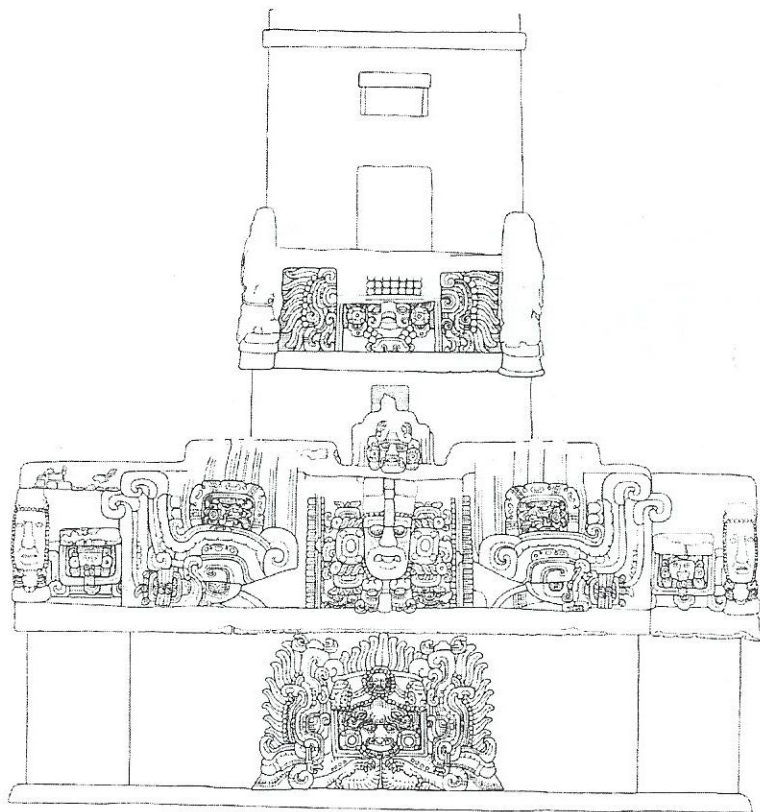


Altar Q, top inscription
Drawing by D. Stuart



East-West section of Str. 10L-16 and Earlier Building Phases

Drawing by Barbara Fash (From Fasquelle and Fash 2005)

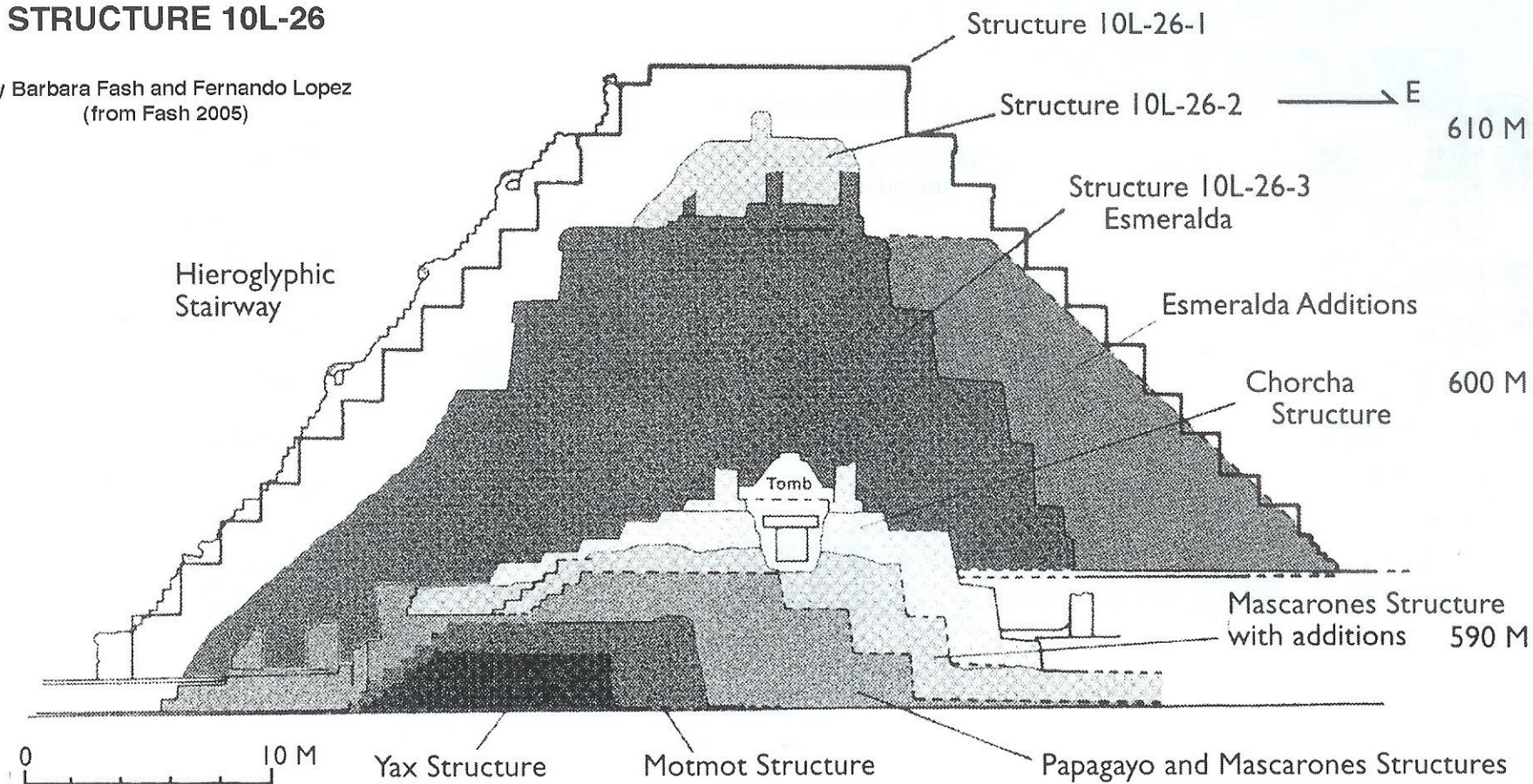


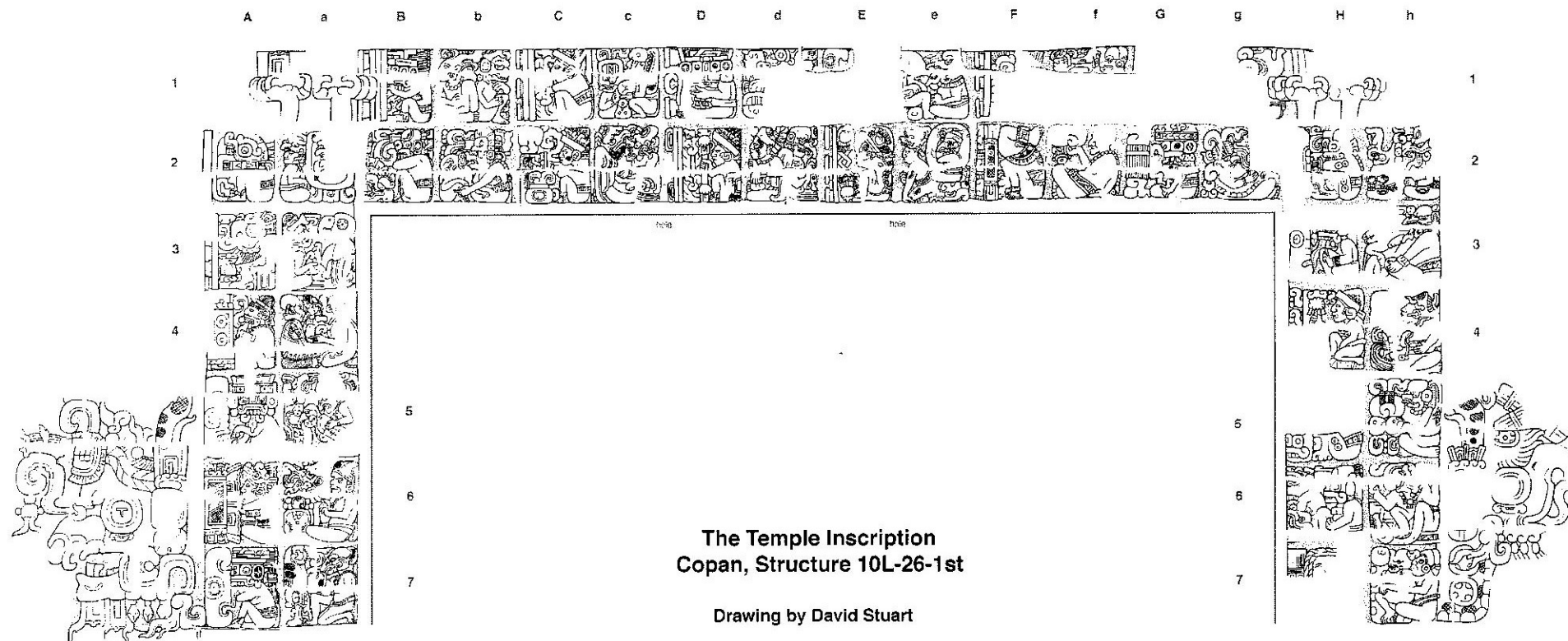
Rosalila Temple
West and North Sides
 Drawings by Barbara Fash

(from Fasquelle and Fash 2005)

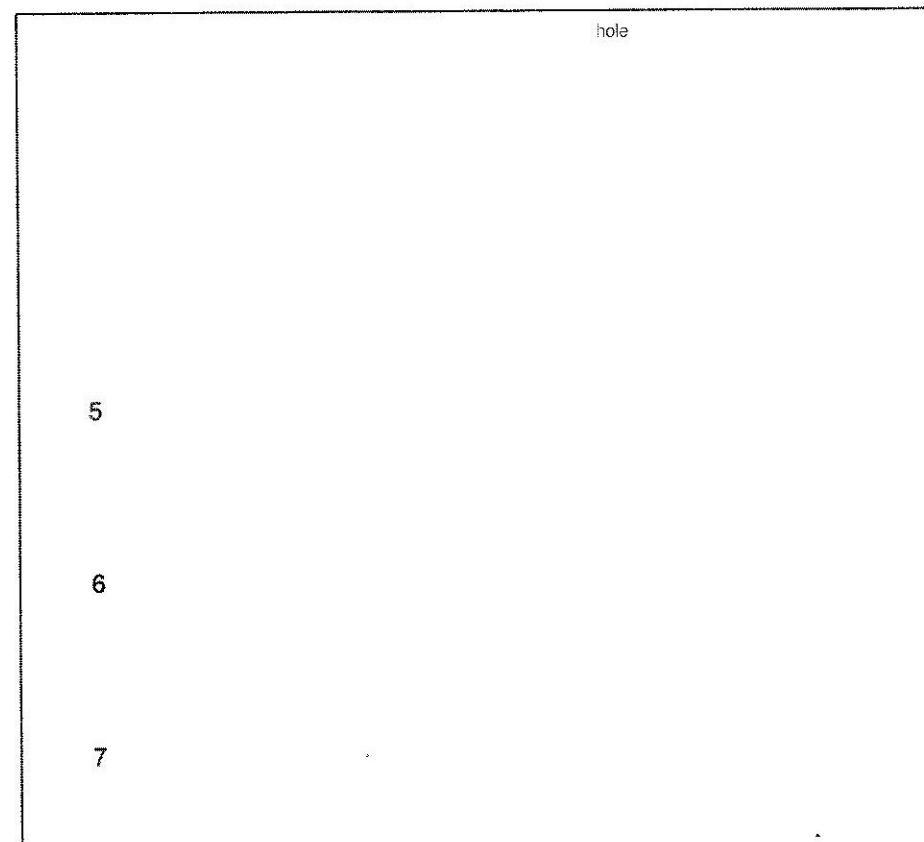
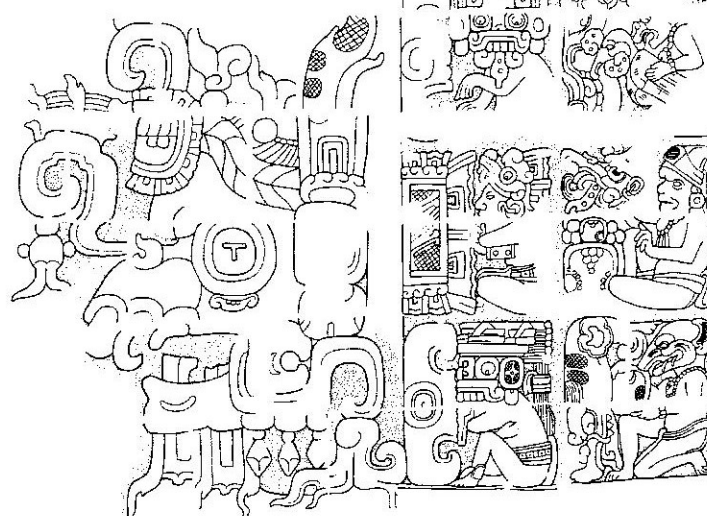
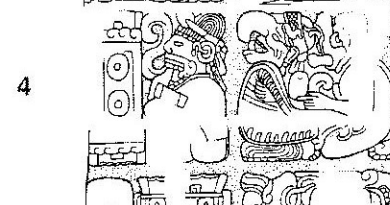
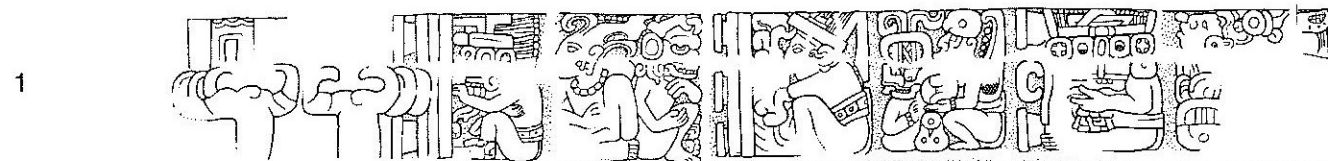
COPAN STRUCTURE 10L-26

by Barbara Fash and Fernando Lopez
(from Fash 2005)





A a B b C c D d



E

e

F

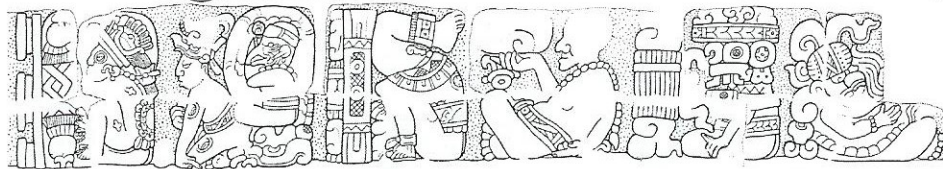
f

G

g

H

h

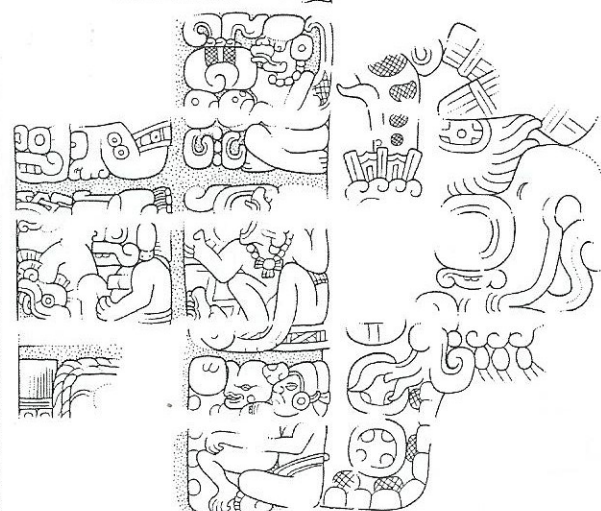
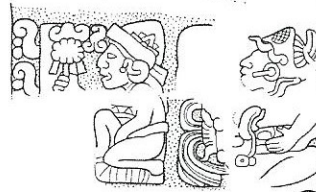
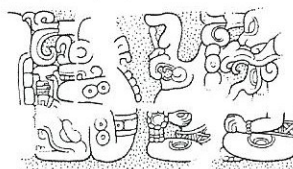
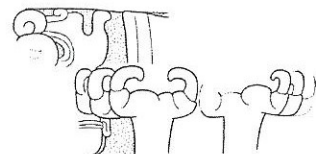


hole

5

6

7



1

2

3

4

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Dates in Copan Inscriptions

Compiled by David Stuart

MAYA LC and CR DATE	GREGORIAN	SOURCE(S)	EVENT
7.1.13.15.0 9 Ajaw 13 Kumk'u	10/14/321BC	Alt. I'	?
8.6.0.0.0 10 Ajaw 8 Ch'en	12/18/159AD	St. I; St. 4	retrospective PE
8.6.0.10.8 10 Lamat 16 Pop	7/13/160	St. I	foundation?
8.10.10.10.16 9 Kib 4 Pax	4/6/249	Str. 10L-7 jamb	?
8.17.0.0.0 1 Ajaw 8 Ch'en	10/21/376	Tomb 1 peccary skull	retrospective PE
8.19.0.0.0 10 Ajaw 13 Kayab	3/25/416	St. 15	retrospective PE
8.19.10.10.17 5 Caban 15 Yaxk'in	9/6/426	Alt. Q, A1-B1; HS 1	K'awiil taking
8.19.10.11.0 8 Ajaw 18 Yaxk'in	9/9/426	Alt. Q, B3-A4	"comes from Wite'nah"
8.19.11.0.13 5 Ben 11 Muwan	2/9/427	Alt. Q, C1-D1	arrival
9.0.0.0.0 8 Ajaw 13 Keh	12/11/435	St. 63; Motmot marker; St. 15; St. 28	PE
9.0.2.0.0 13 Ajaw 3 Keh	11/29/437	"Xukpi" stone	?
9.0.18.0.0 1 Ajaw 3 Mol	9/7/453	St. J	?
9.1.0.0.0 6 Ajaw 13 Yaxk'in	8/28/455	St. 20	PE
9.2.10.0.0 3 Ajaw 8 Kumk'u	3/23/485	St. 24	PE
9.3.10.0.0 1 Ajaw 8 Mak	12/9/504	St. 15	retrospective PE
9.4.9.17.0 5 Ajaw 8 Yaxkin	8/6/524	St. 16	accession of R7?
9.4.10.0.0 12 Ajaw 8 Mol	8/26/524	St. 15	PE dedication
9.4.18.6.12 8 Eb' 0 Mak	11/24/532	HS 1	accession of R8?
9.5.0.0.0 11 Ajaw 18 Tzek	7/5/534	St. E	retrospective PE
9.5.7.12.2 4 Ik 5 Pax ?	1/26/542	Ante step	dedication
9.5.10.0.0 10 Ajaw 8 Zip	5/13/544	St. E	retrospective PE
9.5.17.13.7 2 Manik' 0 Muwan	12/30/551	HS 1	accession of R9
9.5.19.3.0 8 Ajaw 3 Zotz	5/26/553	HS 1; Str. 10L-7 jamb	accession of R10
9.5.19.12.18 11 Etz'nab 1 K'ank'in	12/10/553	Alt. X	"war conjuring"
9.6.0.0.0 9 Ajaw 3 Uayeb	5/22/554	St. 17	PE dedication?
9.6.10.0.0 8 Ajaw 13 Pax	1/29/564	St. 9	PE dedication
9.7.4.17.4 10 Kan 2 Ceh	10/26/578	HS 1	death of R10
9.7.5.0.8 8 Lamat 6 Mac	11/19/578	HS 1, Step 8	accession of R11
9.8.11.6.19 9 Kawak 7 Mak	11/9/604	HS 1, Step 2	birth of R12??
9.9.0.0.0 3 Ajaw 3 Zotz'	5/12/613	St. 7	PE
9.9.10.0.0 1 Ajaw 13 Pop	3/21/623	St. P	PE
9.9.14.16.9 2 Muluc 2 Kayab	1/23/628	HS 1	death of R11
9.9.14.17.5 6 Chicchan 18 Kayab	2/12/628	HS 1; St. 5; St. 12; Alt H'	accession of R12
9.10.18.12.8 8 Lamat 1 Yaxkin	6/30/651	St. 23	dedication
9.10.19.5.0 12 Ajaw 14(13) Kayab	1/28/652	St. 3	dedication
9.10.19.5.10 9 Oc 4(3) Cumku	2/7/652	St. 3	birth of ??
9.10.19.13.0 3 Ajaw 8 Yaxkin	7/6/652	St. 10	dedication
9.10.19.15.0 4 Ajaw 8 Ch'en	8/15/652	St. 19	dedication
9.11.0.0.0 12 Ajaw 8 Ceh	10/14/652	St. 2,10,12,13, 23	PE
9.11.15.0.0 4 Ajaw 13 Mol	7/28/667	St. 5	PE
9.12.0.0.0 10 Ajaw 8 Yaxkin	6/26/672	St. 23	PE

9.12.3.13.11 9 Chuen 19 Pop	3/12/676	St. I Alt.	dedication
9.12.5.0.0 3 Ajaw 3 Xul	6/5/677	St. I Alt.	anticipated PE
9.12.8.3.10 9 Oc 18 Mol	7/29/680	Alt. H'	dedication
9.12.10.0.0 9 Ajaw 18 Zotz	5/10/682	St. 6; Alt H'	PE
9.12.16.7.8 3 Lamat 16 Yax	9/3/688	Alt. K	dedication
9.13.0.0.0 8 Ajaw 8 Wo	3/13/692	Alt I'; Alt of St. E	PE
9.13.3.5.7 12 Manik 0 Yaxk'in	6/18/695	Str. 9N-82; HS 1	death of R12
9.13.3.6.1 13 Imix 14 Yaxk'in?	7/2/695	HS 1	burial of R12
9.13.3.6.8 7 Lamat 1 Mol	7/9/695	St. J; HS 1	accession of R13
9.13.10.0.0 7 Ajaw 3 Kumk'u	1/26/702	St. J; HS 1	PE
9.13.14.0.1 5 Imix 4 K'ayab'	1/6/706	Temple Inscription	dedication event
9.13.16.6.8 7 Lamat 16 Zotz'	5/2/708	Incensario	anniv. of accession
9.13.18.17.9 12 Muluk 7 Muwan	11/29/710	HS 1	stairway dedication
9.14.0.0.0 6 Ajaw 13 Muwaan ??	11/29/711	St. C; HS 1	PE
9.14.3.6.8 5 Lamat 1 Zip	3/27/715	Str. 10L-22	house dedication
9.14.6.4.9 13 Muluk 7 Pop	1/31/718	Clay cylinder	burning rite
9.14.10.0.0 5 Ajaw 3 Mak	10/13/721	St. F	PE
9.14.12.5.5 11 Chikchan 18 K'ayab	1/16/724	"Square altar"	arrival
9.14.15.0.0 11 Ajaw 18 Zak	9/17/726	St. 4; HS 1; T. 11	PE
9.14.19.5.0 4 Ajaw 18 Muwan	12/5/730	St. H	dedication
9.14.19.8.0 12 Ajaw 18 Kumk'u	2/3/731	St. A	dedication
9.15.0.0.0 4 Ajaw 13 Yax	8/22/731	St. B; Alt. S	PE, dedication
9.15.5.0.0 10 Ajaw 8 Zak	7/26/736	St. D; HS 1	PE, dedication
9.15.6.8.13 10 Ben 16 K'ayab'	1/10/738	Ballcourt A, III-B	dedication
9.15.6.14.6 6 Kimi 4 Tzek	5/3/738	HS 1	decapitation of R13
9.15.6.14.8 8 Lamat 6 Tzek	5/5/738	Str. 8L-74	dedication
9.15.6.16.5 6 Chikchan 3 Yaxk'in	6/11/738	St. N base; HS 1	accession of R14
9.15.17.12.16 10 Kib 4 Uayeb	2/4/749	HS 1	death of R14
9.15.17.13.10 11 Ok 13 Pop	2/18/749	St. N base; HS 1	accession of R15
9.16.0.0.0 2 Ajaw 13 Tzek	5/9/751	Corte altar; HS 1	PE
9.16.4.1.0 6 Ajaw 13 Tzek	5/8/755	HS 1	2 nd HS dedication
9.16.5.0.0 8 Ajaw 8 Zotz'	4/12/756	St. M; Temp. Insc.	PE, dedication
9.16.10.0.0 1 Ajaw 3 Zip	3/17/761	St. N; Corte Altar	PE
9.16.12.5.17 6 Kaban 10 Mol	7/2/763	Alt. Q, G1-2; T. 11, Bench, A1-B1; T. 21A, Bench; Alt. U; Alt. R; Corte altar	accession of R16
9.16.13.12.1 9 Imix 9 K'ank'in	10/28/764	Alt. F'	?
9.16.18.2.12 8 Eb 5 Zip	3/27/769	T. 11, Reviewing Stand	dedication of stairway
9.16.18.9.19 12 Cauac 2 Zak	8/21/769	Alt. Z	dedication
9.17.0.0.0 13 Ajaw 18 Kumk'u	1/24/771	T. 11, north stairway; T. 11, reviewing stand; T. 11, S door, E panel; T. 21A, Bench; Alt. Z	PE
9.17.0.0.16 3 Cib 9 Pop	2/9/771	T. 11, W door, S panel	?
9.17.1.0.1 10 Imix 14 Kumk'u	1/20/772	Stone incensarios	dedication
9.17.1.3.5 9 Chikchan 13 Zip	3/24/772	T. 11, E door N panel	?
9.17.2.12.16 1 Kib 19 Keh	9/26/773	T. 11	temple dedication
9.17.4.1.11 2 Chuwen 4 Pop	3/3/775	Str. 10L-32 alt.	?
9.17.4.10.18 7 Etz'nab 11 Yax	8/9/775	El Abra stone vessel	? Copan Bowl Los Higos
9.17.5.0.0 6 Ajaw 13 K'ayab	12/29/775	T. 11, W door, N panel Alt. Q	PE
9.17.5.3.4 5 Kan 12 Uo	3/2/776	Alt. Q	ded. of Str. 16
9.17.9.2.12 3 Eb 0 Pop	1/29/780	Alt. U; Incensario lid	seating of Yax K'am

			Lay
9.17.10.0.0 12 Ajaw 8 Pax	12/2/780	T.22A stone; Harvard Bench	PE
9.17.10.11.0 11 Ajaw 3 Yax	7/10/781	Str. 9N-82	house dedication
9.17.12.5.17 4 Caban 10 Zip	3/19/783	T.22A stone; Alt. T; St. 8	anniv of accession
9.17.12.6.2 9 Ik 15 Zip	3/24/783	St. 8	K'awil conjuring
9.18.0.0.0 11 Ajaw 18 Mak	10/7/790	Alt. W	PE
9.18.1.13.2 9 Ik' 10 Mol	6/24/792	Alt. U	dedication
9.18.2.5.17 3 Kaban 0 Pop	1/25/793	Alt. U	Anniv. of accession.
9.18.5.0.0 4 Ajaw 13 Keh	9/15/795	Alt. G2; T.22A stone	PE
9.18.10.0.0 10 Ajaw 8 Zak	8/19/800	Alt. G3	PE
9.18.10.17.18 4 Etz'nab 1 Zak	8/12/801	Str. 10L-18	dedication?
9.18.12.5.17 2 Kaban 15 Pax	12/4/802	Stone incensario	anniv. of accession
9.18.15.0.0 3 Ajaw 3 Yax	7/24/805	Incensario CPN 27948	PE
9.19.11.14.5 3 Chikchan 3 Uo ??	2/10/822	Alt. L	"seating"

